

Amendment
Serial No. 10/531,428
Attorney Docket No. 052412

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application and are rejected. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are herein amended.

Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fujiwara (U.S. Patent No. 6,801,822).

It is the position of the Office Action that **Fujiwara** discloses the invention as claimed. The characteristic features of the present invention mentioned in claim 1 or claim 5 are to generate a production processing structure in a production management system by selecting a minimum unit task or tasks needed in the respective process points from among all minimum unit tasks (estimated or predicted by the developer) stored in a disk of a management computer in advance, as described on page 7, lines 14-19. With this, the number of man hours and the costs of developing the production management system in building a new factory can be remarkably reduced, and the turnaround time can be shortened.

Fujiwara does not disclose generating a production processing structure in a production management system. Rather, **Fujiwara** merely discloses a production processing structure in a production management system of a factory, once constructed (generated), as illustrated in Figures 1-5. Although once constructed, the processing structure in the production management system of the present invention will be similar to that of **Fujiwara**, **Fujiwara** does not disclose generating the production processing structure in production management system.

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Further, **Fujiwara** does not disclose that a minimum unit task or minimum unit tasks needed in the respective process points is selected among all minimum unit tasks stored in the server in advance. Rather, **Fujiwara** merely discloses programs respectively needed in multiple assembly steps 101-106, 110-111 and stored in a recording medium 607, 707 of clients 201-208 and server 300 in advance, as illustrated in Figures 1, 3 and 4 of **Fujiwara**. Thus, the limitations of “minimum unit” tasks in the claim amendment are not necessary to distinguish over **Fujiwara**, but are added to improve the clarity of the claim. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

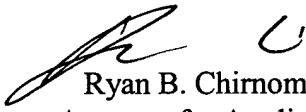
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Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned agent.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Ryan B. Chirnomas
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 56,527
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

RBC/jl